

1/19/09

SB158

Yellowstone County

COMMISSIONERS
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January 19, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Committee:

We would like to support SB #158 increasing the number of district court judges in the 13th District. After numerous meetings with our district court judges and looking at the court calendar and working with the Court Administrator our judges have the largest number of cases per judge in the State.

Our concern is the length of time that a client has to get through the system and our judges have been very proactive in offering speedy trials. Please take careful consideration of adding additional judges to our district and realize that over the next few years this will be a cost effective measure.

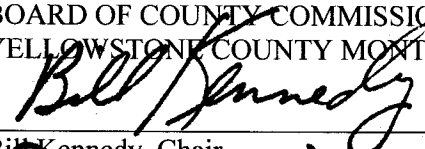
We do have space available in the courthouse to reconstruct new offices. We do have one concern the price of reconstruction of the space is not in our budget and our budget is very tight. We would appreciate consideration for funding or some plans to help us leverage dollars for the reconstruction.


Thank you very much for your consideration and if we can answer any questions for you please feel free to call (406-256-2701).

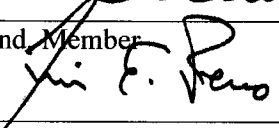
Our lobbyist Ed Bartlett is presenting today because we had County conflicts that we could not change.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MONTANA


Bill Kennedy, Chair


John Ostlund, Member


Jim Reno, Member